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CHIEF PATENT COUNSEL SMITH & NEPHEW, INC. 1450 BROOKS ROAD MEMPHIS TN 38116

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MAR 1 9 2008

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: DECISION GRANTING PETITION
: UNDER 37 CFR 1.313(c)(2)
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This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.313(c)(2), filed March 18, 2008, to withdraw the above-identified application from issue after payment of the issue fee.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The above-identified application is withdrawn from issue for consideration of a submission under 37 CFR 1.114 (request for continued examination). See 37 CFR 1.313(c)(2).

Petitioner is advised that the issue fee paid on February 12, 2008 cannot be refunded. If, however, this application is again allowed, petitioner may request that it be applied towards the issue fee required by the new Notice of Allowance.¹

Telephone inquiries should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3208.

This application is being referred to Technology Center AU 3768 for processing of the request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114 and for consideration of the concurrently filed IDS.

Culasy Karen Creasy

Petitions Examiner Office of Petitions

¹ The request to apply the issue fee to the new Notice may be satisfied by completing and returning the new Part B – Fee(s) Transmittal Form (along with any balance due at the time of submission). <u>Petitioner is advised that the</u> <u>Issue Fee Transmittal Form must be completed and timely submitted to avoid abandonment of the application.</u>